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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,936	11/21/2003	Yang Hwan No	K-0557	7539
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EXAMINER PATEL, RITA RAMESH				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1746				

DATE MAILED: 11/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/717,936

Applicant(s)

NO ET AL.

Examiner

Rita R. Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 August 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-12 and 14-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-12 and 14-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/16/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Applicant's Arguments / Amendments

This Office Action is responsive to the amendment filed on 8/16/06. Claims 2 and 13 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-12, and 14-23 are pending. Claims 1, 3-12, and 16-23 have been amended.

Applicant's arguments have been considered, but are not persuasive. However, upon further consideration, the instant claims are rejected under new grounds of rejections and thus, claims 1, 3-12, and 14-23 are finally rejected for the reasons of record.

Prior claim objection over claim 3 has been overcome due to applicant's amendments filed on 8/16/06.

Prior 35 USC § 102 over claims 1 and 12 are being withdrawn due to applicant's amendments to these claims filed on 8/16/06. In response to applicant's remarks that Worst neither discloses nor suggests a water supply valve assembly positioned above a detergent box assembly, as recited in independent claims 1 and 12, let alone a detergent box assembly provided under a top plate and a water supply valve assembly provided over the top plate ; however, these limitations of claims 1 and 12 have been newly added to these claims and under further consideration are addressed in the rejection herein.

Applicant contests that incorporation of the features recited in claims 3 and 14 are not simply an obvious rearrangement of parts; such rearrangement would require

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complete redesign of the cabinet and control panel structure of Worst's machine, not to mention a complete redesign of the water supply, flow path, and drain scheme disclosed by Worst, thus destroying the originally intended use and function of the washing machine of Worst. The Office maintains the position that the redesign of water supply/flow path/drain scheme do not destroy the original intended functionality or use of Worst; it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Worst to achieve an improved water flow path in the washing machine of Worst. Better water flow paths ensure that the detergent is disseminated most effectively, minimizes water waste therein, and provides better cleaning of articles inside. Albeit, the modification proposed alters the flow path of water, this does not change the scope of the invention of Worst, instead it maintains the focus of washing effectively that is supported by Worst's disclosure of a washing machine with an additive-dispenser for holding treating agents to be dispensed into the washing machine during operation. Worst anticipates that a holder for holding treating agents should be employed in a washing machine, with a water path traveling through the holding path to achieve the best cleaning of articles therein. A modification of the water flow path inherently supports Worst's teaching for a flow path that traverses through the dispenser holder, while simultaneously overcoming a common problem in the art of washing machines with mixing in detergent to the water in the most effective manner.

Thus, rejections over claims 1, 3-12, and 14-23 are herein addressed accordingly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Worst as applied to claims above.

Worst teaches a combination line filter and additive-dispenser for an automatic washing machine which includes a receptacle having a plurality of chambers for receiving additives or treating agents (Abstract). In Figure 1, there is shown a vertical agitator type automatic clothes washing machine 10 having a container for receiving items to be washed, including an outer tub 12, an imperforate structure and a basket 14 for receiving soiled clothes and cabinet 16 which includes a cover 18 hingedly mounted upon a removable top portion 20 of the cabinet such that when cover 18 is lifted, it provides access through an opening 22 to basket 14. Mounted on the cabinet top 20 is a control panel 24 including sequence control means such as a cycle controlling timer device 28 which serves to conduct the washing machine 10 through various washing cycles which may be selected by the operator (col.2, lines 4-9, 15-18 and 21-25).

Referring to Figure 2, filter-dispenser 70 is shown as being suitably attached to outer tub 12 near the top thereof such that the discharge therefrom passes into basket 14. A receptacle 72 is provided including a plurality of chambers such as first, second and third chambers, denoted as 74, 76 and 78, respectively for receiving an additive or

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treating agent such as a detergent. The several chambers are substantially rectangular in shape, and formed of three side walls and a base member, one side wall being left substantially open such that the additive may be more easily flushed therefrom into the container or basket 14. Each of the chambers 74, 76 and 78 have been provided respectively with liquid inlets denoted respectively as 80, 82 and 84. Coupling the liquid inlets and thereby the three chambers into the liquid recirculation system are a set of three conduits 86, 88 and 90 respectively which are connected to fluidic switch 48; the fluidic switch being operable by the sequence control timer 28 (col. 3, lines 15-37, 54-55). As seen in Figure 2, conduits 86, 88 and 90 are shown to be attached to said chambers 74, 76 and 78 at an angled position.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Worst as described above, to provide a rearrangement of parts such that the water supply valve assembly is over the top plate because that would provide a downward flow of water therein to the detergent holding chamber. Moreover, rearranging parts would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for providing attachment of the water supply valve in a control panel to achieve easy access to said assembly in case of repairs, as well as readily provide accessibility to said component for increased usability. Rearrangement of parts was held to have been obvious. *In re Japikse* 86 USPQ 10 (CCPA 1950).

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Claims 4-11 and 15-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Worst as applied to claims above, and further in view of Hobbs et al. herein referred to as "Hobbs" (US Patent No. 6,125,881).

Worst teaches the claimed invention except fails to teach a separably distinct holder and valve assembly for said chamber and coupling liquid inlets. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Hobbs to Worst to achieve improved outlet housing for washing apparatuses which are provided for installation in a wall to connect water supply lines and drain lines to the corresponding lines from an appliance, with dual drain connectors adapted to combine the flows from dual drain outlets into a single drain pipe and knock-outs with downwardly extending, elongated tabs (Abstract). Hobbs teaches an outlet box 10 comprising top wall 12, bottom wall 14, left side wall 16, right side wall 18 and back wall 20. Outlet box 10 is preferably molded, such that ears 22 may be molded directly onto side walls 16, 18 if desired for use in attaching outlet box 10 to wall studs as shown in Figure 7. Alternatively, straps such as molded plastic straps 26 having transversely extending tabs 27, 29 can also be provided for insertion into pockets 24 molded onto side walls 16, 18 of outlet box 10 (col. 4, lines 48-59). In Figures 15 and 16 of Hobbs, outlet box 174 comprises dual drain outlet ports 180 disposed in its bottom wall and two angle stop valves 178 connected to supply pipes 176 through back wall 182 such that outlet box 174 is to be fully recessed and flush mounted inside the wall (col. 7, lines 26-36). The dual drain or multiple drain outlet boxes of the invention can be fabricated so as to permit installation with water supply

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lines entering the outlet boxes from the top, bottom, side or back walls as desired (col. 7, lines 58-61). Also as seen in figure 15 of Hobbs, the top plate includes a recessed wall which can perform a slip fit engagement with the attachment area thereunto, thus reading on applicant's limitation for slip fit engagement.

As priorly taught by Worst and the obviousness of rearrangement of parts thereunto, upon attachment of the water supply valve assembly in a control panel, the valve assembly would then be arranged at an angular slant wherein one side connected to the hose would be lower than the other side. The attachment of said parts on the slanted wall of the controller top to the washing machine of Worst would thereby teach a slanted connection of said parts. This design feature would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention because it encourages the flow of water downwards (following gravity) into the detergent dispensing area.

In Figure 6 of Hobbs, another installation of outlet box 10 is depicted wherein ears 22 are used to nail, screw or otherwise fasten outlet box 10 to more closely spaced studs 118, 120 (col. 6, lines 32-36). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide said equivalence of attaching means as taught by Hobbs, to achieve desired fastening for an outlet box, motivated by means of efficiency, functionality, cost and aesthetics. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use substitution of known equivalent structures. *In re Fout* 213 USPQ 532 (CCPA 1982); *In re Susi* 169 USPQ 423 (CCPA 1971); *In re Siebentritt* 152 USPQ 618 (CCPA 1967); *In re Ruff* 118 USPQ 343 (CCPA 1958).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rita R. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-8701. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RRP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Barr", with a stylized flourish at the end.

MICHAEL BARR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER